



# Agricultural Invasive Species Fact Sheet

## Introduction

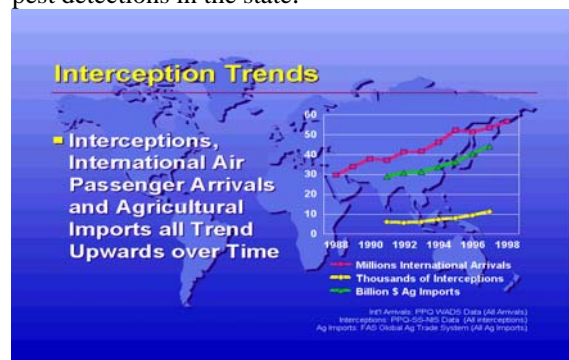
A large part of Idaho's economy is dependent upon agriculture. This sector generates at the farm level 3.9 billion in cash receipts from more than 144 different commodities. A host of invasive insect, weeds, plant and animal pathogens threaten Idaho's diversified agriculture. Survey and management efforts against invasive species are a major ongoing challenge to the sustainability of the Gem State's farmers and agricultural processors. Export sensitive crops such as seeds are required to undergo Idaho State Department of Agriculture field inspections for invasive pests as part of an export phytosanitary certification process.

## Existing and Potential Invaders

Several pest lists assist invasive species managers to prioritize threats to Idaho's crop and animal husbandry industries. For example ISDA Plant Industries Division maintains a Plant Pest Watch List which includes 41 plant pathogens, 30 insects and 6 terrestrial mollusks. Cereal leaf beetle *Oulema melanopus* is established in 37 out of 44 counties and is causing loss to Idaho's important small grains industry. *Ralstonia*, brown rot of potatoes, is a potentially devastating bacterial disease which has not been detected in the state yet. It would drastically alter the potato industry in the state if infection occurred in key potato production areas.

## What's at Risk

With the tremendous increase in passenger travel, inter-state and global commerce, interceptions of pests and plant materials at ports of entry has increased at an alarming rate. Invasive species impact both commodity yields and quality. Production cost for producers would increase and exporters may risk loss of important markets as a result of new exotic pest detections in the state.



## Key Players and Their Roles

The lead agencies responsible for survey, detection and management of invasive agricultural pest are the Idaho State Department of Agriculture (ISDA) and USDA Animal Plant Health Inspection Service

(APHIS). These two agencies cooperate under the statutory authority of federal and state laws to mitigate invasive species impacts on agriculture at the state and national levels. Several detection surveys are conducted annually for high risk invasive species. Coordinated eradication programs are first responses. If the pest becomes established in the state or region often biocontrol efforts are undertaken by public agencies to suppress the species.



Biocontrol efforts are ongoing to suppress Cereal leaf beetle in ID

## Current Efforts

The Idaho office of USDA, APHIS and ISDA Division of Plant Industries run coordinated efforts to protect Idaho agriculture from new and emerging pests. Both agencies conduct detection and surveillance surveys on numerous insects, plant pathogens and plant parasitic nematodes. Both work with producers and commodity organizations to establish management and regulatory programs to reduce the spread of exotics and their damage to the impacted industries. The Cooperative Agriculture Pest Survey (CAPS) and the National Agricultural Pest Information System (NAPIS) are two critical foundations to the federal-state partnership in invasive species management.



Brown rot of potato poses a serious threat to Idaho's lead commodity

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<http://www.agri.idaho.gov/plants/feed.htm>